

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Openly partisan propaganda disguised as news does not serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, they have an enormous amount of power to influence public opinion. If they are allowed to broadcast propaganda as news, we might as well be living in a dictatorship. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and legitimate news stories instead of partisan propaganda produced by media conglomerates in the best interests of large corporations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.